

A SMALL GROUP STUDY

NEHEMIAH

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drivetime
DEVOTIONS

NEHEMIAH: A SMALL GROUP STUDY

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ABOUT DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS SMALL GROUP STUDIES

Welcome to this special Drivetime Devotions, small group study. This 4-week study is designed so that you can enjoy Drivetime Devotions as a podcast throughout the week and then talk about it with your small group. This will allow for more time in your small group for discussion, application, and fellowship.

The purpose of Drivetime Devotions is to help you know God's Word and put it into practice. It's usually better to study small sections of God's Word each day instead of a larger section once a week. Studying the Bible is like eating—you'll be healthier if you eat small amounts each day rather than one big meal a week! Episodes are designed to be listened to once per day, five days a week. In the event you miss a day or two, you can still stay on schedule.

ABOUT DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS SMALL GROUP STUDIES

In Drivetime Devotions, Pastor Tom Holladay teaches God's Word and helps you put it into practice. With over 30 million downloads, Drivetime Devotions has built a reputation for changing lives and helping people grow closer to God. You can access this podcast study on NEHEMIAH by downloading the DrivetimeDevotions app for your phone or by going to DrivetimeDevotions.com.

HOW TO USE THIS INTERACTIVE STUDY GUIDE

This study guide is designed to be used as a downloaded file on your tablet or phone. You do not need to print it out unless you want to.

A FEW TIPS BEFORE YOU DIG IN



LISTEN

Prepare yourself before each study by listening to each week's five daily podcast episodes (one per day).



CHECKING IN

Open each meeting with a time for everyone to check in on each other's progress with the podcast. Accountability is a key to success in this study!



KEY VERSE

Each week you will find a key verse (or verses) from the chapter you are studying. You may want to memorize this verse together as a group.



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

These are questions for group discussion. Please don't feel pressured to discuss every single question. The material in this study is meant to be your servant, not your master. Therefore there is no reason to rush through your discussions. Give everyone ample time to share their thoughts.

Some questions will reference the verses from which they are taken. Many groups will want to have someone read those verses accompanying the question. There is something powerful about hearing the Bible read aloud together as a group.



LIVING ON PURPOSE

This section helps you encourage each other in balancing God's five purposes of evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship. Each week, there will be a prayer, practical action, or personal assignment that focuses on one of these purposes.



PRAYING TOGETHER

At the end of each session you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of small group life. Please don't take it for granted.

Get ready for God to do incredible things in your life as you begin the adventure of learning more deeply about the most exciting message in the world: the truth about God!

A FEW TIPS BEFORE YOU DIG IN



TELL A FRIEND

As you go through each session, the Holy Spirit may bring to mind different people in your life. You may even want to write their names down beside a point, phrase, or verse in the margins. Take the opportunity to share God's Word in a friend's life during the week.

WEEK ONE: NEHEMIAH Nehemiah 1-2



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK ONE



CHECKING IN

1. If you're just starting as a group, take some time to get to know each other by going around the circle and sharing your name, where you grew up, and something about your life.
2. When you have to start a difficult or long project, what is your typical first reaction or coping mechanism?



KEY VERSE

"The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding."

Nehemiah 2:20 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. When you consider Nehemiah's profound grief over the broken walls described in verses 3-4, what are some situations around you that break your heart, and how can we support each other in taking those burdens to God? *Nehemiah 1:3-4*
2. Looking at Nehemiah's immediate response to fast and pray when he heard the bad news, how can we encourage one another to turn to prayer first when faced with overwhelming challenges? *Nehemiah 1:5-11*

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3. When you reflect on Nehemiah's courageous request to the king despite his intense fear, in what areas of your life are you currently needing the courage to step out, and how can this group help you take a stand? *Nehemiah 2:1-5*
4. In seeing how Nehemiah boldly asked for the specific resources he had already prepared for, how does this challenge the way you prepare for the opportunities God might be opening for you? *Nehemiah 2:6-8*
5. When you consider how Nehemiah cast a vision that inspired the leaders to say "let us start rebuilding," how can we better inspire those around us to join in the work God has called us to? *Nehemiah 2:17-18*
6. Reflecting on Nehemiah's confidence in God's success in the face of Sanballat's mockery, how can we encourage each other when our steps of faith are misunderstood or criticized by others? *Nehemiah 2:19-20*



LIVING ON PURPOSE

WORSHIP

As an act of worship, take 10 minutes this week to find a quiet place and write down a list of "rubble" in your life that you are asking God to help you rebuild.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Spend time praying for the specific areas of rebuilding each person mentioned, asking God to give courage and favor as you step out in faith this week.

WEEK ONE



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK TWO: NEHEMIAH Nehemiah 3-4



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK TWO



CHECKING IN

1. Looking back at last week, what is one area of "rubble" in your life that you started to bring to God in prayer?
2. Have you ever felt totally unappreciated for something you worked really hard on, and how did it affect your motivation?



KEY VERSE

"So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart."

Nehemiah 4:6 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. As we read the long list of people Nehemiah recognized by name for their specific work on the wall, how can we be more intentional about noticing and appreciating the efforts of people in our own lives? *Nehemiah 3:1-32*
2. When you look at the men of Tekoa whose nobles would not put their shoulders to the work, how do you handle situations where leaders or expected helpers let you down, and how can we help each other stay focused? *Nehemiah 3:5*

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3. Reflecting on Sanballat's harsh ridicule of the rebuilding effort, what kind of internal or external negative voices make you want to quit, and how can this group help you silence them? *Nehemiah 4:1-3*
4. When you consider Nehemiah's immediate response to pray rather than retaliate against his critics, how can we hold each other accountable to take our anger to God rather than lashing out at others? *Nehemiah 4:4-6*
5. Looking at the physical threats and complete exhaustion faced by the builders, where do you personally go for strength when you feel completely worn out by a task God has given you? *Nehemiah 4:10-12*
6. In seeing how Nehemiah positioned families together with weapons to protect the gaps in the wall, how can we actively stand in the gaps for one another to protect our group from spiritual attack? *Nehemiah 4:13-14*



LIVING ON PURPOSE

EVANGELISM

In the spirit of evangelism, write a note of specific appreciation to someone who doesn't yet know Jesus, acknowledging their value and hard work as a way to reflect Christ's love to them.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the people you plan to encourage this week, asking God to use your words of appreciation to open doors for sharing the Gospel.

WEEK TWO



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK THREE: NEHEMIAH Nehemiah 5-7



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK THREE



CHECKING IN

1. Looking back at last week, how did it go when you tried to intentionally appreciate someone in your life?
2. What is a success or milestone you've achieved that ended up bringing more responsibility than you expected?



KEY VERSE

"When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God."

Nehemiah 6:16 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. When you think about the internal conflict and exploitation among the people described in verses 1-5, how do we handle it when believers hurt one another, and how can we foster honest, restorative conflict resolution in this group? *Nehemiah 5:1-5*
2. Looking at Nehemiah's personal sacrifice in refusing the governor's food allowance so he wouldn't burden the people, what personal rights might God be asking you to lay down for the sake of discipling others? *Nehemiah 5:14-19*

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3. Reflecting on Nehemiah's refusal to be distracted by Sanballat's repeated invitations to meet, what are the subtle distractions pulling you away from God's priorities, and how can we help you stay on the wall? *Nehemiah 6:1-4*
4. When you look at the false rumors spread about Nehemiah's motives in verses 5-9, how do you maintain your integrity and trust in God when your character is unfairly questioned? *Nehemiah 6:5-9*
5. As we consider the miraculous completion of the wall in just 52 days, what is a seemingly impossible area in your spiritual life where you need to trust God for a breakthrough, and how can we pray for that? *Nehemiah 6:15-16*
6. Looking at Nehemiah's decision to organize the success by delegating leadership to faithful men, who in your life is God calling you to mentor or empower with responsibility? *Nehemiah 7:1-3*



LIVING ON PURPOSE

DISCIPLESHIP

For our discipleship focus, choose one area of success in your life this week and take a specific step to organize it or delegate it so you can focus more on growing in your walk with God.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray that God would reveal the subtle distractions in our lives and give us the focus to complete the work He has given us as we grow as disciples.

WEEK THREE



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK FOUR: NEHEMIAH Nehemiah 8-10



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK FOUR



CHECKING IN

1. Looking back at last week, what distractions were you able to say 'no' to in order to stay focused on God's work?
2. What is the most memorable celebration or party you have ever been a part of?



KEY VERSE

"Nehemiah said, 'Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'"

Nehemiah 8:10 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. When you consider the people's response of weeping as they heard the words of the Law, how does God's Word currently impact your heart, and how can we encourage each other to approach the Bible with deeper reverence? *Nehemiah 8:8-9*
2. Looking at Nehemiah's command to celebrate and share food with those who had none, how can we as a group better share our resources and celebrate God's goodness together? *Nehemiah 8:10-12*

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3. Reflecting on the Israelites' decision to openly confess their sins and their fathers' sins, what makes it so difficult to be vulnerable about our failures, and how can we make this group a safe place for confession? *Nehemiah 9:1-3*
4. When you read the people's reminder of God's incredible faithfulness despite their rebellion, where in your own life do you need to be reminded of God's grace today? *Nehemiah 9:16-21*
5. As we look at the community's binding agreement to faithfully follow God's laws, what practical commitments do we need to make to each other to ensure we continue growing spiritually? *Nehemiah 10:28-29*
6. Considering their specific promise not to neglect the house of God, how can we hold each other accountable to prioritize gathering together and serving in our church community? *Nehemiah 10:39*



LIVING ON PURPOSE

FELLOWSHIP

To build fellowship, plan a time this week or next for our group to share a meal together, specifically focusing on celebrating what God has done in our lives over this study.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Spend time praising God for His faithfulness and praying that the joy of the Lord would truly be the strength of your fellowship.

WEEK FOUR



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.